processed based on the acquisition cost, net asset value of the share and the future prospects of the company. Appropriate decision in this regard is taken by LIC on the advice of its Investment Committee.

Off loading of shareholding by UTI

1558. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Unit Trust of India has offloaded its shareholding in large number of closed companies which have been suspended by stock exchange for trading;

(b) whether UTI has sold a large number of shares of closed and sick companies like Oswal Agro Mills Ltd. to RBI approved NBFCs thus unlocking public funds and investor value:

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the investor value unlocked;

(d) whether Government propose to issue similar instructions to LIC to also liquidate its holding in such companies so that public funds are properly utilized;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India (SUUTI) has sold shares of several closed and sick companies including unlisted companies to various buyers after advertising and receiving competitive bids thereunder and an amount of Rs. 139.43 crore was realized.

(b) and (d) No, Sir.

(c) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) LIC investments are governed by section 27 A of the Insurance Act, 1938 as made applicable to LIC and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) Regulations, 2000 amended from time to time.

All decisions relating to investments/disinvestments are taken in accordance with the unanimous advice of the Investment Committee

constituted under Section 19 (2) of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. For operational flexibility, the Investment Committee has delegated authority to Chairman as to the day-to-day investments in equities and Government Securities.

While equity transactions are mostly carried out in listed securities through secondary market operations, IPOs' rights issues, open offers etc., at times, Corporation receives offers to buy holding, either in part or whole, inilliquid/unlisted companies. Such proposals are processed based on the acquisition cost, net asset value of the share as derived from the latest available financials, if any, and the future prospects of the company. Appropriate decision is taken on the advice of the Investment Committee.

Recovery of loans by banks

1559. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many banks in the process of recovery of loans given to farmers for agricultural operations and other activities go to the extent of attaching in the property of farmers and confiscate the land and homes of farmers;

(b) if so, in how many cases the Public Sector Banks have resorted to this course of action; and

(c) whether any of the farmers whose property has been attached has committed suicide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c)>Banks recover their overdue loans by taking action against the defaulting borrowers as per the terms of the loan agreement and the provisions of the law. Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) do not maintain data in the manner asked for.

Rebate under Section 12(A) of Income Tax Act

†1560. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi